THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Of the 8 major and 2 medium irrigation projects received from Government of Gujarat, none has been approved during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

(b) Does not arise.

Propaganda in American Media regarding Possession of A-Bombs by India

298. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the propaganda in American media that the India possess A-Bombs; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Government have seen an article in Newsweek magazine which attributes to Western intelligence sources the allegation that India has produced atomic bombs. The article adds that "India strenuously denies possessing any nuclear weapons". Our Missions in the United States have consistently stressed to the Amercian media the entirely peaceful nature of our nuclear programme.

Nuclear Power Projects of Maharashtra

299. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) what are the details of nuclear Power Projects of Maharashtra pending with Government for approval and since when; and

(b) by when these projects are likely to be cleared by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) The Site Selection Committee appointed by the Department of Atomic Energy has assessed various sites for setting up nuclear power stations in different electricity regions of the country including sites in the State of Maharashtra. The report of the Committee is under consideration of the Government.

Government Policy on Transfer/posting

300. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any uniform Government policy on transfer/posting of its employees;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) wherether there is any proposal to set up a Committee for the redressal of grievances of those employees who are often posted|transferred to places far away from the place of posting of his|her spouse; and

(d) what effective steps have been taken to avoid hardship to Government|semi-Government employees in matter of transfers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Government have not felt the need for laying down a Central Transfer policy. The respective cadre controlling authorities examine each case on merits taking into account various factors like affording equal opportunity for all officers belonging to a cadre to get exposure to various types of work, various places of posting, need for periodical rotational transfers and also taking due note of administrative constraints, convenience, expediency and public interest. Guidelines have also been issued in April, 1986 regarding posting of spouses at the same station in respect of employees of Central Government and Central Public undertakings subject to fulfilment of certain administrative requirements.